

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing requests from location-based service applications for location-based services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service providers, different ones of said plurality of disparate location-based service providers specifying different formats for receiving said requests, comprising the steps of the location service:

receiving requests for location based-services;

determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider which can service said request;

specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified by said particular location-based service provider;

uniformly formatting each result set produced from corresponding ones of said requests;
and,

forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service applications.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said uniformly formatted result sets are result sets which have been formatted according to the Geography Markup Language (GML),

3. (Currently Amended) A common location-based service adapter interface,
comprising:

a uniform input interface through which location-based services can be requested using a uniform format which is independent of any specific formatting required by a particular service adapter configured to process said location-based services; and,

and a uniform output interface through which specifically formatted result sets can be formatted using said uniform format, wherein

said uniform input interface adapted to be connected to different service adapters specifying different formats for receiving requests.

4. (Original) The common location-based service adapter interface of claim 3, wherein said uniform input interface comprises:

a plurality of location-based service adapter objects, each said adapter object being configured to provide said at least one location-based service responsive to receiving a uniformly formatted location-based service request;

a location service object configured to provide a reference to a particular one of said location-based service adapter objects based upon a specified location-based service; and,

a plurality of location request objects configured to define location-based service request parameters required by generic ones of said location-based service adapter objects.

5. (Currently Amended) A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for processing requests from location-based service applications for location-based services provided by a plurality of disparate location-based service providers, different ones of said plurality of disparate location-based service providers specifying different formats for

receiving said requests, the computer program comprising a routine set of instructions for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

receiving requests for location based-services;

determining from each said request a particular location-based service provider which can service said request;

specifically formatting each said request according to a specific format specified by said particular location-based service provider, and uniformly formatting each result set produced from corresponding ones of said requests; and,

forwarding said uniformly formatted result sets to the location-based service applications.

6. (Original) The machine readable storage of claim 5, wherein said uniformly formatted result sets are result sets which have been formatted according to the Geography Markup Language (GML).